

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Public Services – Forest Department – Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri R. Kondala Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests/Divisional Forest Officer, earlier Logging Division, Chintur, Rajahmundry Circle, under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Articles of Charges issued – Findings of the Inquiry Authority received – Further action dropped and exonerated from the charge– Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.4

**Dated:22.01.2025.
Read the following:**

- 1)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, Letter.Rc.No.7998/2019/Vig-1, dated 16.03.2020.
- 2)G.O.Rt.No.58, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 12.07.2021.
- 3)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, Letter.Ref.No.7998/2019/Vig-1, dated 22.09.2021 along with Written statement of defence, dated 28.07.2021 submitted by the Charged Officer.
- 4)G.O.Rt.No.103, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 29.11.2021.
- 5)G.O.Rt.No.104, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 29.11.2021.
- 6)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, Letter.Ref.No.7998/2019/A&DC-3, dated 03.08.2023.
- 7)Govt. Memo.No.904/Sec.IV/A1/2020, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 22.08.2023 and subsequent Memo. dated 02.02.2024.
- 8)From Sri R. Kondala Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests, written representation, dated 01.03.2024.

ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has informed that Sri R. Kondala Rao Deputy Conservator of Forests, Logging Division, Chintur, Rajahmundry Circle has sent Whatsapp messages to the superior officers violating the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964; and requested to initiate disciplinary action against him for his misconduct.

2. In the G.O. 2nd read above, Government have initiated departmental action and the following Article of Charge was issued to Sri R. Kondala Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests/Divisional Forest Officer, earlier Logging Division, Chintur, Rajahmundry Circle, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991:

ARTICLE:"That the said Sri R. Kondala Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests /Divisional Forest Officer, Logging Division, Chintur, Rajahmundry Circle had shown gross dereliction of duties by exhibiting indifferent, irresponsible, improper behaviour/attitude without maintaining discipline and decorum by sending advisory messages which are abusive and of threatening nature, through WhatsApp to the Superior Officers which amounts to misconduct and violation of A.P.C.S. (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, Sri R. Kondala Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests /Divisional Forest Officer, Logging Division, Chintur, Rajahmundry Circle by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, discipline, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government servant and thereby, contravened Rule-3 of the A.P.C.S. (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Hence the charge".

P.T.O.

::2::

3. In the reference 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has informed that the Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 28.07.2021 and written the dissent note on the Article of Charge itself.

4. Not satisfying with the explanation of the Charged Officer, orders have been issued in G.Os. 4th & 5th read above, appointing Sri A.K. Naik, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Research & IT), O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur as the Inquiring Authority to inquire into the charge framed against the said Charged Officer and Sri A.K. Jha, IFS., Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA & I/c HR), O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur as Presenting Officer to present the case on behalf of the disciplinary authority before the Inquiring Authority.

5. In the reference 6th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri has submitted the findings of the Inquiry Officer i.e., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Research & IT), O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri in the case wherein, the Inquiring Authority has concluded that the charge framed against the said Charged Officer was held not proved.

6. In the reference 7th read above, a copy of the findings of the Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer along with the following lapses on the part of Charged Officer in the Inquiry Report, for submission of his written representation if any, under Rule 21 (2) of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991:

- a) The charged officer has accepted his charges of sending WhatsApp Messages to the Higher Officials.
- b) The individual has shown his disrespect to the Higher Officials by writing the dissent note on the acknowledgment of AoC itself.
- c) The Charged Officer has been behaving in an indisciplined manner.

7. In the reference 8th read above, the Charged Officer has submitted his written representation wherein, he has stated among other things and requested to drop further action against him and release all rightful benefits.

8. After careful examination of the matter, Government have decided and hereby order to drop further action in the disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri R. Kondala Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests/Divisional Forest Officer, earlier Logging Division, Chintur, Rajahmundry Circle (presently working as Deputy Director, TRI., O/o the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada on deputation), under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 and he is exonerated from the charge framed against him, since the charge framed against him was held not proved in the inquiry.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU

SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Individual through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:

The E.F.S. & T. (Sec.V) Department.

The G.A.(SC.D) Department.

The OSD to the Hon'ble Dy.C.M.

SF/SC (Computer No.1144762).

//FORWARDED ::BY ORDER //


SECTION OFFICER